

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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DPW-01 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /124 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1442

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS USUN 5931

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SOCI

SUBJECT: THIRD COMMITTEE--ITEM 12, DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: STATE 295042

1. SUMMARY. ON DEC 3 THE THIRD COMMITTEE ADOPTED A
DECISION TO REFER BOTH THE SWEDISH AND BYELORUSSIAN
RESOLUTIONS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS TO THE NEXT SESSION
OF THE GA. WESTERN REACTIONS TO THE OUTCOME WERE MIXED,
WITH SOME STATING IT REPRESENTED A SOUND DEFEAT FOR
THE SWEDES AND OTHERS HOLDING THAT DEFERRAL TO THE
NEXT GA REPRESENTS A SMALL STEP FORWARD FROM LAST YEAR
WHEN THE US WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW ITS RESOLUTION ON
AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT ITS DEC 3 SESSION, THE THIRD COMMITTEE DECIDED
TO DEFER ACTION ON THE SWEDISH RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL
PRISONERS (A/C.3/31/L.34) AND THE BYELORUSSIAN RESOLU-
TION (L.37) TO THE 32D GA.

3. THE DECISION IS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE THIRD COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN NOTE OF DOCUMENTS
A/C.3/31/L.34 AND L.37 SUBMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH
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CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 12. FOR LACK OF TIME,

THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONSIDER THE RESOLUTIONS IN DETAIL AND DECIDES TO RECOMMEND TO THE GA TO POSTPONE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE 32D SESSION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 12, REPORT OF THE COSOC."

IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY FROM THE DELEGATE OF EGYPT THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE TWO RESOLUTIONS WILL NOT BE REFERRED TO THE NEXT SESSION, BUT THEY WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

4. THE READING OF THIS DECISION WAS PRECEDED BY A STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF SWEDEN OUTLINING THE VARIOUS COURSES OF ACTION. HE STATED HE PREFERRED NOT TO REFER RESOLUTIONS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SINCE SUCH ACTION WOULD INHIBIT THE HRC AND HE WISHED TO AVOID PROCEDURAL MANEUVERING AND A PROCEDURAL DEBATE OVER THE GDR AMENDMENTS AS A TEXT BASED ON PROCEDURAL SUBTLETIES IS NOT WORTH VERY MUCH. HE STATED THAT HE HAD THEREFORE REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE BYELORUSSIAN SSR THAT BOTH TEXTS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO NEXT YEAR'S GA.

5. IN REACHING THIS DECISION THE SWEDISH DELEGATION TOOK ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF THE EC-9 AND US AS TO THE MOST DESIRABLE COURSE OF ACTION AND OF OUR STRONG DESIRE TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH ONLY THE BYELORUSSIAN RESOLUTION WOULD BE ADOPTED. THE SWEDES JUDGED THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH G77 SUPPORT TO DEFEAT THE GDR AMENDMENTS AND COULD NOT RISK A VOT ON THE ISSUE. IF THE GDR AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN ADOPTED, THE SWEDES WOULD HAVE HAD TO WITHDRAW THEIR SPONSORSHIP OF RESOLUTION L.34, LEAVING IT AS A DEAD ISSUE. THIS WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE OPENED THE WAY FOR A VOTE ON THE BYELORUSSIAN RESOLUTION (L.37) AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ADOPTED.

6. FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF THE DECISION, SEVERAL DELEGATES, INCLUDING THE US, MADE BRIEF COMMENTS. A COPY OF THE US STATEMENT, DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR MYERSON, UNCLASSIFIED

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IS BEING POUCHED TO IO/UNP, HEWITT. THE NETHERLANDS, ON BEHALF OF TH EC-9, DEPLORED THE MANNER IN WHICH THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN SWEEP ASIDE AS A RESULT OF MANEUVERS BY CERTAIN DELEGATIONS. THEY NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL PRISONERS CONTINUES TO BE OF GREAT MAGNITUDE AND THRE SHOULD BE NO UNCERTAINTY THAT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP RAISING THE ISSUE. THE USSR NOTED THAT MORE TIME WAS REQUIRED TO WORK OUT AN

ACCEPTABLE DRAFT AND TIME WAS ALSO NEEDED FOR THE
DUST TO SETTLE AFTER THE RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY A
CERTAIN DELEGATION (US RESOLUTION ON AMNESTY) LAST
YEAR. AUSTRALIA, MOROCCO, NORWAY, ISRAEL AND HONDURAS
ALSO SPOKE OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE SWEDISH RESOLUTION.
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